

REMARKS

Claims 6, 9-11, 13 and 22-74 are pending in the above-captioned patent application following this amendment. Claims 6, 9-11, 13 and 22-74 were subject to a restriction requirement. The claims of Group I, which comprise claims 6, 9-11, 13 and 22-66, were elected with traverse. The Applicants further respectfully submit that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn.

No new matter is believed to have been added by this response. Consideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Applicants respectfully assert that claims 6, 9-11, 13 and 22-74 should be examined together, that they are patentable for the reasons set forth previously, and that the application is now in a condition for allowance. Alternatively, the Applicants submit that the claims of Group I comprising 6, 9-11, 13 and 22-66 are patentable and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early notice of allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at 858-456-1951 for any reason that would advance the instant application to issue.

Dated this 27th day of March, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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